

**Arizona State Board for Charter Schools**

February 27, 2003

Arizona Department of Education

Room 417

1535 West Jefferson

Phoenix, AZ 85007

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Onnie Shekerjian – President

Kurt Davis-Vice President

Mary Gifford – Superintendent’s Designee

Mary Lynn Kelly—Business Member

Sally Kur – Public Member

Kimberly Mosher—Public Member

Paul Smiley—Business Member

**Members Absent**

Dan Diethelm—Public Member

Cookie Goddard – Public Member

Senator Linda Aguirre – Advisory

Representative John Huppenthal – Advisory

Representative Ted Carpenter—Advisory

Onnie Shekerjian called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item A – Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item B – Moment of Silence**

**Agenda Item C – Roll Call:** Mike Barragan called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

**Agenda Item D—Legislative update, review and possible consideration of Board positions concerning education related bills including but not limited to bills regarding the following subjects: agency budget and school accountability.**

Kristen Jordison reviewed the packet materials with the Board and described the criteria for assigning bill priority.

Board Member Davis recommended changing the bill priority labels to position bills, monitor bills, and informational bills. Staff was requested to make the change.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Kurt Davis to support the OSPB budget recommendation that the funds and the schools transfer to this Board. Support is given with the stipulation that the State Board of Education keeps their statutory authority to sponsor charter schools with a one-year moratorium on this requirement. In addition, this Board will develop a study committee comprised of recommended legislators, legislative staff, charter operators, board members, and board staff to review self-funding proposals & other authorizers. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

**Motion passes unanimously**

**MOTION**

Motion made by Kurt Davis to support the legislatures formation of a study committee on HB2009 and request a designee of the Board be involved. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes unanimously**

Gary Bae, representative from the Leona Group, commented to the Board that the current language of HB 2097 includes all sections of Title 15. Mr. Bae commented that any amendment would best be served by modifying the charter school language specifically.

#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Mary Gifford to support HB 2097 School District compliance with amendment language that enables only the sponsor to withhold any portion of state monies from charter schools found not in compliance with applicable sections of Title 15 and to work with Superintendent Horne on the amendment. Motion seconded by Kurt Davis.

**Motion passes unanimously**

#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Kurt Davis to support HB 2226 Model Charter Schools only if the budget proposal to transfer funds & schools from the State Board of Education is also approved. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes unanimously**

#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Mary Gifford to support HB 2008 Commission for postsecondary education membership. Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

**Motion passes unanimously**

#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Mary Gifford to create a study committee comprised of charter operators, board and ADE staff, representatives from the Charter School Association, and board members appointed by the President to discuss and examine the impact of Arizona Learns and No Child Left Behind on charter schools. Motion seconded by Kurt Davis.

**Motion passes unanimously**

Margaret Roush-Meier, the Executive Director of the Charter School Association, informed the Board that the Association did not support SB 1131.

Greg Miller, charter representative from Challenge Charter School, informed the Board that although his school no longer offered early Kindergarten that he supports keeping the flexibility in the law. Mr. Miller stated that this was not a parental choice but a school choice on whether the school admits students after September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sandy Houston, charter representative from Arizona Montessori Charter School, commented to the Board that she does not support SB 1131 and likes the flexibility for her students.

Dr. Pat Bassett, charter representative from Omega Academy, also commented to the Board that the flexibility in the current law on admitting Kindergarten students is important, as student readiness is not dependent on a specific date.

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#### **MOTION**

Motion made by Kurt Davis to oppose SB 1131 Kindergarten, first grade, age requirements and support the flexibility provided by the current law. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes unanimously**

Debra Slagle, charter representative from Westwind Academy, told the Board that she opposes SB 1131.

On those items that the Board has taken a position the Board requested staff to prepare letters to be sent to the sponsors of the bills and the chairs of the committees. The President, Vice-President, and Executive Director will sign these letters.

The Board clarified the staff role in support and lobbying on behalf of the Board. Specifically, the staff was requested to lobby for and provide testimony on position bills. Staff was asked to provide a monthly legislative update to the Board at the regularly scheduled meeting and e-mail to all members a weekly bill tracking worksheet. If staff are unable to provide representation at a hearing staff were directed to contact the Board President.

**Agenda Item E—Call to the Public**

**Agenda Item F—Adjournment**

**MOTION**

Motion made by Mary Gifford to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mary Lynn Kelly.

**Motion passed unanimously**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:55 pm

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Signature

Date